

Commanding Officer's Philosophy of Command



We exist to fight and win our Nation's Wars. We can never lose sight of that fact. We are living during an extremely unstable time full of unpredictable world leaders, old and emerging terrorists groups, and increasing natural disasters. Every Marine and Sailor needs to be world wide deployable today. Your mind, body, spirit, and your family must expect the call at any time to deploy in support of this Nation.

My priorities listed in order of precedence:

1. **<u>Mission</u>:**
   -*Mission First, Marines Always* has been a guiding principle throughout my service. Leadership 101: Take care of Marines and Sailors and they will take care of the rest. Artillery is our primary mission, all else is secondary. When in doubt, focus on shooting, moving, and communicating. You may catch hell for not completing a secondary task, but you will get someone killed if you fail in your primary mission. We are the "*First in The World",* I know it, you know it, and we want the rest of the world to know it!
2. **<u>Leader Development</u>:**
   -Groom Your Replacement – Everyday ask yourself, "if I am hit by a bus today, who will take over for me?" It is your duty, no matter what rank you hold, to build the future of the Corps.
   -Attention to Detail – It is the small things that make an organization great.
   -Initiative – *Message to Garcia*, read it and practice what it preaches.
   -Integrity – Never let it get called into question. Don't test me on this one.
   -PME – Everyone needs to complete their PME. Leaders must look out for their subordinates and make the hard call to let people leave to attend school. You owe it to them and the unit.
3. **<u>Readiness</u>:**
   -Accountability – We don't lose equipment. If we do, we are held accountable. The American Taxpayer expects us to be good stewards of his/her tax dollars.
   -Maintenance – We must maintain both our bodies and our equipment . Medical, dental, weapons, radios, vehicles, etc… It all adds up over time and it will make or break a unit trying to deploy on short notice. Ask yourself everyday you wake up: "If the call came today, am I ready"? This Battalion is ready for you, are you ready for it?
4. **<u>Balance</u>:**
   You have to find a balance and a battle rhythm. Training, maintenance, PT, nutrition, finances, fun, and spiritual. It is impossible to do everything to perfection. The 80% solution will work in most cases. If you can not say you had fun over the past year, you need to rebalance your life. Everyday will not be fun; we are in the warfighting business. It takes drive, determination, and hard work to be the world's premier fighting force; however, there will be times for fun, seek them out.

What guides my decisions? I will lead with a common sense approach. If it seems wrong, it's probably wrong. If it's not broken, don't fix it. I expect junior leaders to make decisions. Don't wait on the boss. If you make good decisions, you will be rewarded. If you make bad decisions, you will be counseled and held accountable. Firm, but fair. My door is always open, but use your chain of command first. Use your feet, the phone, and then email to work issues. Email is great for passing large amounts of information to many people, but don't live by it. Face to Face communication is becoming a lost art;